United Nations S/2018/300

Security Council

Distr.: General
4 April 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 3 April 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Pursuant to my letter to you dated 26 March 2018, regarding the seven Houthi ballistic missiles launched against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (S/2018/266), I am writing to inform you that the Iranian-backed Houthi militia in Yemen attacked a Saudi oil tanker today in international waters to the west of Hudaydah port. Fortunately, this attack was foiled by the rapid intervention of a naval vessel belonging to the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, resulting in minor damage to the oil tanker, which then sailed northward safely, escorted by a naval vessel of the Coalition.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia condemns in the strongest terms this cowardly terrorist attack on a Saudi oil tanker and expresses its grave concern regarding the threats that unabated Houthi terrorist attacks pose to the freedom of maritime navigation and international trade in the Bab al-Mandab and Red Sea regions. Furthermore, by waging this failed terrorist attack on an oil tanker, the lawless Houthis also demonstrated their indifference to the potentially catastrophic regional environmental and economic consequences of an oil spill in the Bab al-Mandab and Red Sea regions. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia therefore calls upon the Security Council to condemn this latest Houthi terrorist attack and to hold the Houthi militias and their patron Iran accountable for their innumerable crimes against international law. On behalf of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms that the Coalition will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of maritime navigation and international trade in the Bab al-Mandab and Red Sea regions. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates once more the importance of placing the port of Hudaydah under international supervision, in order to prevent the smuggling of weapons to the Houthis in violation of the arms embargo established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and to prevent the use of Hudaydah port as a launch pad for terrorist attacks to threaten international maritime trade routes.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia notes with regret that the Houthi ballistic missile attacks of 25 March 2018 coincided with the visit of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, to the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, sending yet another clear message — following the assassination attempt on the former Special Envoy, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, in May 2017 — that the Houthis forcefully reject all United Nations-led peace efforts. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia notes with concern that the ballistic missile attacks of 25 March and the latest maritime attack were launched following a visit by a European Union delegation to

Sana'a on 19 March. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates that many concerned States have cautioned against undertaking such visits to the Houthis, given that the Houthis interpret such contacts as legitimizing them, and in particular legitimizing their continued use of violence and refusal to engage in political dialogue with the legitimate Government of Yemen, as recognized in relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2216 (2015). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia further reiterates that the Houthis' principled rejection of all political dialogue has been proven by their rejection of United Nations proposals to increase commercial and humanitarian shipments through Red Sea ports, including new arrangements for the management of Hudaydah port and city, as well as an agreement for the resumption of government salary payments and the preservation of essential government services in all areas of Yemen. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia notes with regret the extent of the Houthis' intransigence, which led them to reject such proposals that would have significantly improved the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia warns that the Houthis will continue to refuse to engage in any and all political dialogue so long as they are ordered to do so by their sponsor Iran. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia therefore calls upon the Security Council to take any and all possible measures to ensure the swift and comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015), in order to prevent the escalation of Houthi attacks on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which raise regional tensions and raise the risks of a broader regional confrontation.

My delegation requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative